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On the Hill, Most Favor Tough Stand

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President Carter's warning to the Soviets to keep their hands off the Persian Gulf drew broad approval in Congress last night, although liberals and conservatives alike left the chamber still wondering what would prompt Carter to use military force.

Carter's appeal for a lifting of "unwarranted restraints" on U.S. intelligence gathering agencies is likely to be more favorably received. Considerable support already exists for exempting the CIA from certain provisions of Freedom of Information laws, which some say enabled the Soviet KGB to obtain classified information. A law requiring that all covert operations be reported to eight congressional committees also is likely to be revised to limit disclosure to one or two congressional intelligence committees.

EXCERPTED